

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the conclusion of the report be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCLUSION

The Summit participants were a diverse group of experienced women business owners who presented their candid views in response to the challenge from the Summit's sponsors. The participants' discussions focused on a vast number of wide-ranging issues and problems in seven areas confronting women-owned small businesses. There was no script directing the agenda. The Summit was participant-driven—the participants identified problems, they formulated solutions, and they put the recommendations in priority order.

Each participant brought a unique perspective to the Summit. One half of all participants had companies that had been in business for at least 10 years. Eighty-six percent of the women small-business owners were between the ages of 35 and 64. These seasoned executives and entrepreneurs brought years of experience to the table, and they are the best source for ideas on and solutions to the pressing problems confronting women-owned businesses in America today.

The issue singled out as the top priority by the Summit participants were Federal procurement. The participants at the highly attended Procurement session made a series of 13 recommendations. From this list, the participants' number one priority was that Federal agencies must begin awarding 5% of their contract dollars to women-owned small businesses. This 5% goal was established by Congress in 1994, and Federal agencies have failed to reach even one-half of the goal—2.5%—every year since the goal was enacted into law.

The second highest-ranked priority area for women business owners was the availability of capital, with a particular emphasis on their inability to raise equity investment capital. For start-up and fast-growing companies, the ability to raise equity capital is often critical to building a successful business. Equity infusions are designed to strengthen a company's balance sheet, which enables it to borrow money from banks and other commercial lenders in order to meet the company's day-to-day operating needs. The door to equity capital has been effectively shut and locked for the vast majority of women business owners.

The Summit's goal was to ensure that the recommendations from the participants receive serious scrutiny from the 107th Congress and the new Administration as they are sworn-in this coming January. New incentives should be developed in some areas to help women-owned small businesses continue to thrive. But in other areas, government must simply stay out of the way and let these entrepreneurs do what they do best—run successful companies. At the same time, the heads of Federal agencies need to be held accountable when their agency fails to do its part under the law, such as with the requirement that the Federal government must award 5% of its contracts to women-owned small businesses.

With all of the participants' specific recommendations in each of the respective topic areas, the Congress and the Executive Branch have a new mandate—listen to what women small-business owners have said and answer their call to action. In that vein, this report will be distributed to every Member of

the United States Senate and House of Representatives and to the President of the United States in order to ensure that the Summit's recommendations are in the forefront of what needs to be done to help small businesses. The major issues singled out by the Summit participants must be the focus of the Congress and the Administration as they work to support and assist women-owned small businesses, which are so critical to the continued economic prosperity of this country.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—Continued

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague, the chairman of the committee, for allowing me this time. I thank the ranking member, Senator BYRD, for having done an excellent job on this bill. There are many items in the bill before us that I, along with the Senator from Wyoming, believe are very important. We wish them Godspeed.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE GREENBRIER

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, tucked into a sheltered green valley in Southern West Virginia is a magical place, a place where fascinating history, natural majesty, and sumptuous comfort have combined since the first days of our nation's founding to create a spot that is justly world-renowned. That place, Mr. President, is called The Greenbrier, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. It has been a special place for several decades now, overflowing with game for the Shawnee Indians, a spa since colonial days, a place of high society idylls and balls, fought over during the Civil War, a World War II diplomatic internment site and then a rest and recuperation hospital for wounded soldiers, and a secret government relocation site—all cloaked behind the well-bred, white-columned face of a grand southern belle of a resort.

Mr. President, in May, my wife Erma and I celebrated our 63rd anniversary. Erma is my childhood sweetheart, the former Erma Ora James. We have written a lot of history together over the past 63 years, and I could not ask for a better coauthor.

This year, as we have in the last several years, we celebrated at the fabled Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs. I am certainly not original in my inspiration to celebrate moments

of marital bliss there—President John Tyler, the first President to be married in office, spent part of his 1844 honeymoon in White Sulphur Springs. Actors Debbie Reynolds and Eddie Fisher spent part of their 1955 honeymoon there, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph P. Kennedy arrived at the Greenbrier on October 11, 1914, for a two-week honeymoon. Many, many, other famous names are inscribed in the Greenbrier's guest register. The history that Erma and I have created together is a blink of the eye compared to that of The Greenbrier, whose healing waters were first enjoyed by hardy colonists in 1778, as they had been by Shawnee Indians for untold years before that.

The Greenbrier has been a resort almost since the day in 1778 that Mrs. Anderson, one of the first homesteaders in the Greenbrier area of the "Endless Mountains," as the region was identified on colonial maps, first tested the wondrous mineral waters on her chronic rheumatism. Word of Mrs. Anderson's recovery spread rapidly, and numerous log cabins were soon erected near the spring. The "summer season" at the spring was born, albeit in a somewhat primitive state.

Still, the fame of the spring along Howard's Creek continued to spread. Thomas Jefferson mentioned "Howard's Creek of Green Briar" in his "Notes on the State of Virginia" in 1784; that same year, George Washington focused the Virginia legislature's attention on the commercial prospects of the "Old State Road" running between the Kanawha River valley, through The Greenbrier's lands, to the piedmont and tidewater sections of Virginia. Along the route of today's roadway between the hotel and the golf clubhouse stands a monument to this vision. The Buffalo Trail monument commemorates the point at which the pre-colonial Indian Buffalo Trail crossed the Allegheny Mountains on its way from the Atlantic Coast to Ohio. This trail became the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, which for over a century carried commerce and development from the settled East to the future states of West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri. By 1809, a tavern with a dining room, a barn, a stable, mills, and numerous cabins constituted a hospitable stopping place along the still-rugged route West. And rheumatism sufferers were joined at this watering hole by others more interested in the creature comforts and social interaction than in relieving joint pain.

By 1815, the first spring house was built over the spring head, and a thriving resort was attracting visitors who typically stayed for several weeks at a time. A hotel and many surrounding cottages, some quite sumptuous, were erected over the years. Commodore Stephen Decatur, hero of the Barbary Wars, brought his wife for a 16-day stay